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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

THE circulars of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Holl have been issued. The elementary zoological course will be under the direction of Prof. James I. Peck, assisted by Messrs. Dalgren, Greene, Lefevre, Murbach, Packard, and White. The botanical work will be directed by Prof. Bradley M. Davis, with the assistance of Messrs. Moore, Caldwell, Harper, Fairchild, Webber, Swingle, and Mrs. Esten. Physiological studies will be directed by Prof. Jacques Loeb, assisted by Messrs. Norman and Lyon. The work in elementary embryology will be in charge of Messrs. Lillie, Strong, Crampton, Treadwell, and Miss Clapp, while the zoological investigation will be conducted by Professors Ayers, Bumpus, Conklin, McMurrich, Metcalf, Morgan, and Morrill. New features are seminars in embryology and neurology, conducted by Drs. Conklin, Morrill, and Strong, and a course of instruction in methods of illustration by Dr. Arnold Graaf. The laboratory intends to incorporate in its tenth report a historical sketch of the institution. The session for 1898 extends from June 29 to August 10. The prices charged are the same as in previous years.

It has been proposed to rebuild the museum at South Kensington, London, and Parliament will be asked to grant an appropriation of £3,000,000 for the purpose.

The New York Public Library has received \$10,000 from Mr. Jacob H. Schiff for the purchase of scientific works.

Mr. George Sharman has resigned his position as paleontologist of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, and Mr. George K. Cherrie that of assistant director of ornithology in the Field Columbian Museum of Chicago.

The Museum of Comparative Zoology has recently acquired a fossil ostrich egg from the neighborhood of Pekin, China. It has almost exactly the same dimensions as the *Struthiolithus chersonensis* of Brandt.

For some time *Science* has been publishing a series of articles by different persons dealing with the question of the age of the implements found in the Trenton gravels. The layman in such matters is left in doubt between the various conflicting claims, but with a general feeling that these relics cannot have the great age sometimes attributed to them.

Prof. E. Ray Lankester has been elected Fullerian Professor of Physiology in the Royal Institution of Great Britain. He is to give a course of seven lectures on the simplest living things. This appointment does not interfere with his position in the University of Oxford.

The Geological Society of London has awarded the Wollaston medal to Prof. F. Zirkel, the Murchison medal to T. F. Jamieson, and the Lyell medal to Dr. W. Waagen.

In the editorial department of this journal for February a plea was made for the exercise of common sense in questions of scientific nomenclature. In *Science* for January 21 Dr. Theodore N. Gill has a case in point. In 1852 Dana recognized a genus *Arctus* and took for his type the *Scyllarus arctus* of Fabricius. Now, since *Arctus* was the only species known to Fabricius, Dr. Gill proposes to overturn this work which has stood for nearly half a century, to refer *Arctus* back to the genus *Scyllarus*, and to refer those species which later students assigned to *Scyllarus* to a new genus *Scyllarides*. We doubt if almost "every zoologist" will admit the necessity for the change. Why not leave well enough alone? The proposed change merely introduces confusion where all was simplicity before.

Prof. Thomas Jeffrey Parker, of the University of Otago, New Zealand, died at Dunedin, Nov. 7, 1897. He was the son of the late William Kitchen Parker, and received his scientific training at the hands of his father and of Huxley. From 1872 to 1880 he was demonstrator of biology at the Royal College of Science, South Kensington. In that year (1880) he went to New Zealand, where he remained until his death. He was most widely known by his books, *Instruction in Zootomy* (1884) and *Lessons in Elementary Biology* (1891), but he had published numerous articles dealing chiefly with Vertebrata and Crustacea. Shortly before his death, in connection with Prof. W. A. Haswell, he had completed the manuscript of a text-book of zoology just published by the house of Macmillan.

The University of Chicago makes appropriations of \$729,000 for the University year beginning July 1, 1898. Among the items we note the following: for the faculty of arts, literature, and science, \$347,000; libraries, laboratories, and museums, \$44,000; printing and publishing, \$41,000. The total number of graduate students in the university is 324, of whom 122 are women.

At the meeting of the Yale Corporation held on the 13th inst. O. C. Marsh, professor of paleontology, formally presented to the University the valuable scientific collections belonging to him, now

deposited in the Peabody Museum. These collections, six in number, are in many respects the most extensive and valuable of any in this country, and have been brought together by Professor Marsh at great labor and expense during the last thirty years. The paleontological collections are well known, and were mainly secured by Professor Marsh during his explorations in the Rocky Mountains. They include most of the type specimens he has described in his various publications. The collection of vertebrate fossils is the most important and valuable of all, and includes, among many others, (1) the series of fossils illustrating the genealogy of the horse, as made out by Professor Marsh and accepted by Huxley, who used it as the basis of his New York lectures; (2) the birds with teeth, nearly two hundred individuals, described in Professor Marsh's well-known monograph, "Odontornithes"; (3) the gigantic Dinocerata, several hundred in number, Eocene mammals described in his monograph on this group; (4) the Brontotheridæ, huge Miocene mammals, some two hundred in number; (5) Pterodactyles, or flying dragons, over six hundred in number; (6) the Mosasaurs, or cretaceous sea-serpents, represented by more than fifteen hundred individuals; (7) a large number of Dinosaurian reptiles, some of gigantic size. Besides, there are various other groups of mammals, birds, and reptiles, most of them including unique specimens. Additional collections comprise extensive series of fossil footprints, invertebrate fossils, recent osteology, American archæology and ethnology, and minerals. The main conditions of the gift, which is for the benefit of all departments of the university, are that the collection shall remain in a fire-proof building, and under the control of Professor Marsh during his life, after that under the charge of the trustees of the Peabody Museum, and, finally, that type specimens shall not be removed from the museum building. From a scientific point of view, the value of the collections is beyond price, each one containing many specimens that can never be duplicated and already are of historical interest. Altogether, this is the most important gift to natural science that Yale has yet received.

Franz Kempe, of Stockholm, has endowed a chair of vegetable biology in the University of Upsala with \$40,000 and has nominated Dr. A. N. Lundström of Ultuna as the first occupant.

Dr. Rodolfo Amando Philippi, on account of his age (ninety years), has resigned his position as Director of the National Museum in Santiago, Chile. His son, professor of natural history in the university there, has been appointed his successor.

Prof. Hans Molisch, of Prague, is spending a year in the botanical gardens at Buitenzoo.

Dr. Karl Futterer, of Carlsruhe, has gone on a geological expedition to Central Asia.

The University of Bonn has received the valuable anthropological collections of the late Mr. Schaafhausen.

The library of the late Prof. Carl Vogt has been purchased by the Senckenberg Society of Frankfurt am Main.

Some years ago the Boston Society of Natural History attempted to establish zoological gardens and aquaria in Boston, but from the first, as a result of impracticable plans, the project was doomed to failure. Recently the idea has taken another form, and the mayor of the city, Mr. Josiah Quincy, in his inaugural address, recommended that the city itself take up the work, which it was estimated would involve an expenditure of about \$200,000.

The gypsy moth still makes demands upon the Massachusetts Legislature. The state has already expended considerably over half a million dollars in the attempt to exterminate the pest, and for the coming year the committee of the State Board of Agriculture, having the work in charge ask for an appropriation of \$200,000 for the work in 1898. That the insect can be kept in check cannot be denied, but that extermination of it can be accomplished does not seem so certain to us as it does to the committee. It is proposed by some to limit the appropriation to \$75,000.

Recent Appointments : Dr. Abelous, professor of botany in the University of Toulouse, France. — Dr. Otto Finsch, director of the collection of ornithology in the Leyden Museum. — Dr. Hollermann, privat docent in botany in the University of Berlin. — Dr. Julius Istvánffy, professor of botany in the University of Klausenburg, Hungary. — W. P. Pycraft, temporary assistant in ornithology in the British Museum. — Mr. Francis Ramaley, of Minneapolis, assistant professor of botany in the University of Colorado at Boulder. — Dr. L. Rhumbler, privat docent in zoology in the University of Göttingen.

Recent Deaths : Charles Cornevin, professor of zoology and hygiene in the veterinary school at Lyons, France. — Dr. Mietschke, a German entomologist. — George H. Piper, geologist, of Ledbury, England. — Dr. F. Sintenis, German student of Diptera. — Prof. Ernst Ludwig Taschenberg, entomologist, of Halle, Jan. 20, 1898. He was born Jan. 10, 1818.